

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting Lake Barkley Recreational Boating Project Delivery Team

1. Dianne Edwardson (COE, Operations Manager, Western Kentucky Area): - Introductions & Purpose. Purpose is to discuss initiatives to improve recreational boating on Lake Barkley. Draft copies of the Project Management Plan were distributed. A list of meeting attendees follows these minutes.

Meeting guidelines were set by participants:

- Respect others opinions
- Participation
- Continuation of stakeholders
- Agree to disagree
- Set goals
- Receptive to new ideas
- Flexible
- Be on time
- Shut off cell phones
- Stay on topic

2. Mike Ensich (COE, Chief of Operations Division): Outlined the purpose of the meeting.

- Why creation of Lake Barkley involved such a broad variety of interest
- Corps course of action is a result of a meetings held with Secretary Woodley and Congressman Whitfield
- Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed changes to guide curve is out for comments until September 30, 2006. EA prepared to weigh advantages, disadvantages, options, and alternatives for lake levels.
- Outlined the purpose of this team's goals as short term changes that can be accomplished without a National Environmental Policy Review (NEPA) to include but not be limited to:
 - Dredging snag removal
 - Removal or marking underwater obstructions
 - Map marking underwater obstructions

3. Dianne Edwardson (COE, Operations Manager, Western Kentucky Area): PowerPoint presentation on Lake Barkley and the Project Management Plan draft.

- Primary and secondary purpose for Lake Barkley
- Barkley statistics
- Partners associated with navigation, hydropower, and recreation
- Operating factors during flood and non flood conditions
- History of Barkley's curve guide
- Graph of present operating guide and past proposed guides

4. Tim Higgs (COE, Project Planning Branch): Provided Environmental Assessment information. EA is out for comments for 90+ days ending September 30, 2006.

- EA is based on TVA's Reservoir Operations Study (ROS)
- Corps Barkley Guide Curve
- Downstream economic impact to Mississippi River
- Impact on bird and animal habitat
- Laws and the Corps compliance to environmental law issues
- Corps concern and partnership with other districts affected by operational changes

5. Group Discussion: Q: question, A: answer, C: comment on the PMP

- Q: (Pape) What was the original average lake depth at impoundment? What is the average today?
A: (Looney) Presently 15 ft
- Q: (Pape) How long does it take for new shoreline plant community to develop?
A: () About 12 yrs?
- Q: (KWW) How different are mudflats now opposed to original impoundment?
- Q: (KWW) What is the critical time frame for the navigation industry?
A: (Sneed) Oct–Nov
A: (USCG) This year July-August
C: (TWRA) Timing on mudflats is critical
- C: (Pape) Corps needs a better range of flexibility to suit environmental issues.
Q: (Pape) Does the 10 day extension make a big difference? Is the Corps over regulating? Is data available on impacts?
- C: (Fuqua) 15 days were added in the 80's; 10 days added in 05 that has made an impact on habitat. No data available on shorebirds, some data is available on waterfowl.
- C: (Pape) Across the nation environmental officials say more wetland is available than any time in the last 100 years.
- C: (Fuqua) We're looking at the impact on this area. Birds on this flyway don't move to the rest of the country.
- C: (Higgs) Cumulative effects of past/future must be considered. Corps feels they are balancing wildlife habitat issues.
- Q: (Pape) What are mudflats uses and what is the critical time wildlife requires the mudflats?
A: () Food-protection-insects; shorebirds & wading birds get food from mud and will move if unavailable.
A: (Fuqua) Previous drawdown schedule was best for food supply for migrating shorebirds
A: (Taylor) His agency does have data on the waterfowl that use the mudflats.
- Q: (Pape) Where do the birds go if their habitat/mudflat changes?
A: (Taylor) They don't know, Widgeon population has been reduced to 1/3 previous population.
C: (Fuqua) Some birds left the area and have not returned since lake levels changed.
- Q: () What are widgeons?
A: () Type of duck

- C: (Wiles) Commented on Michael Johnson and the success of the Clarks River Refuge Area; ask if they had data, has it had any impact on the return of the widgeons?
A: () Not yet
- C: (Bennett) Wasn't aware of wildlife impact. Is any compromise possible - or is attitude of no change by wildlife agencies? Was the waterfowl here before the lake was impounded?
- C: (Fuqua) This meeting is for alternative ways to help recreation without changing lake levels.
- C: (Pape) Commented on Woodley meeting to direct Corps to look at concern of safety due to low lake levels and removal of natural obstructions. Letter from Kentucky Governor was requested on lake levels; they have his letter. Emphasized Whitfield, Bunning, and McConnell are committed to finding solutions.
- C: (Ensch) Corps is looking at all perspectives; dangerous boating issues, what we can do in the immediate future?
- Edwardson ask members to look at PMP, suggest changes and email them to her. Comments on the EA need to be sent to Higgs by end of September.
- C: (Waddell) Bird islands are disappearing.
- Q: (Edwardson) Ask for volunteers to work on the PMP rewrite.
- Q: (Edwardson) Ask if there is anyone else we need to add to the list?
- A: (Wiles) Michael Johnson, Clarks River NWR
- Q: (Lasher) Question on the Corps authority to dredge outside the navigation channel.
A: (Ensch) We have dredging equipment to maintain the channel and side channel. Cost is a factor if dredging is expanded beyond channel. Dollars are the determining factor.
- Q: (Higgs) Can dock owners dredge?
A: (Edwardson) Permitted dredging is an option we will look at.
- Q: (TWRA) Ask for accident statistics
A: (KF&W) They will get some statistic
- Q: (Pape) Can mudflats be created on LBL side of Lake Barkley?
A: (USFS) May be possible
C: (Pape) Contrasts average depth with Lake Cumberland

6. Conclusion (Dianne Edwardson)

Ask for committee members and set meetings on 2nd Thursday of month at 10:00. Location to be announced.

7. Location: Lake Barkley Conference Room, Grand Rivers, KY
Meeting Participants:

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